

Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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P R 101130Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4632

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 1636

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARN, MT, LY

SUBJ: F-5 SPARE PARTS

1. REMIG R. FARRUGIA, MANAGING DIRECTOR MALTA FIRM MARKETING OVSEAS (MARKOV) WHO IS ALSO PUBLISHER MONTHLY MALTA ECONOMIST, DIRECTOR MALTA CENTRAL BANK, MEMBER OF LABOR PARY EXECUTIVE, AND HAS EXTENSIVE TRADE AND OTHER CONTRACTS IN LIBYA, APPROACHED EMBASSY TO INQUIRE WHETHER MILITARX SALES AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT PURCHASE SPARE PARTS FOR LIBYAN F-5S STILL IN EFFECT. FARRUGIA CLAIMS ONE OF HIS LIBYAN ASSOCIATES, HAJ TAHER BREDEH WAS APPROACHED BY LARG TO ARRANGE FOR SPARE PARTS PURCHASE THROUGH A MALTESE BUYER RATHER THAN THROUGH A DIRECT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT PURCHASE. FARRUGIA SAID HE HAS SEEN COMPUTER PRINTOUTS OF SPARE PARTS REQUIRED AND HAS APPLIED FOR BUSINESS VISAS FOR HIMSELF AND TAHER BREDEH'S SON GADDAFI TAHER BREDEH. HE ADDED LATTER SHOWED HIM TWO MILLION DOLLAR LETTER CREDIT PAYABLE BY IRVING TRUST WHICH HE IS CARRYING WITH HIM FOR SPARE PARTS PURCHASE.

2. COMMENT: WHEN WE ASKED WHY LARG WOULD PREFER INDIRECT PURCHASE SPARE PARTS, FARRUGIA REPLIED LIBYAH GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WISH IT TO BECOME WIDELY KNOWN TO LIBYA PROPER AND ARAB WORLD THAT IT IS BUYING MILITARY RELATED PRODUCTS FROM U.S. THEY WISH TO SHIP SPARE PARTS TO MALTA BY AIR AND THEN BY SHIP TO TRIPOLI. ALTHOUGH WE INDICATED TO FARRUGIA WE WERE NOT CONVINCED BY HIS EXPLANATION AND WE WERE UNAWARE
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CURRENT STATUS ARMS SALES ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN US AND LIBYA, WE AGREED MAKE QUERO TO DEPARTMENT IN ORDER SAVE FARRUGIA EXPENSE USELESS TRIP TO THE U.S. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP SINCE FARRUGIA AND GADDAFI TAHER BREDEH ARE STANDING BY TO DEPART

FOR US IF APPROPRIATE REPLY RECEIVED. ADVISORY OPINION ON
BREDEH'S VISA WILL BE TREATED SEPTEL.
GETZ

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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